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Office of the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator in Kenya

HIGHLIGHTS

- Long dry spell intercepts El Nino influenced rain season
- Food insecurity concerns mount for the north and north-eastern districts
- Humanitarian actors launch a US \$508 million appeal for 2010
- 14, 871 confirmed cholera cases, 261 deaths recorded in Kenya since January 2009
- Blanket supplementary feeding targets five districts in northern Kenya

The information contained in this report has been compiled by OCHA from information received from the field, from national and international humanitarian partners and from other official sources. It does not represent a position from the United Nations. This report is posted on: <http://ochaonline.un.org/kenya>

General Overview

The El Nino influenced rain season was intercepted by a long dry spell in November, which was earlier predicated to the peak period of rainfall. According to the Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD) review of November rains states that deficient and poorly distributed rainfall characterized the month of November 2009. An almost 15-day persistent dry spell engulfed most parts of the country unabated from 6th to 21st November 2009 despite the a slight improvement in rainfall over the western parts, central highlands, Nairobi area and the southeastern lowlands from 16th to 19th November 2009. The outlook for December indicates that the Northwestern areas including the North Rift, Southeastern lowlands and the southern parts of Northeastern Kenya are likely to receive depressed rainfall, increasing concerns about deteriorating food security in the country.

In October and early November enhanced rainfall was received in western, north-eastern and coastal Kenya, leaving up to 5000 families temporarily displaced to schools, community buildings, host families and even camps. The heavy rains caused destruction to life, property and infrastructure. In Central Province, heavy rains also caused landslides in Mathioya and Meru in October. Heavy rains on 12/13 December in western Kenya caused flooding and affected some 300 households who were displaced to family and friends. The displacements were temporary and families started to return to their homes in Nyando district, three villages were marooned and several pit latrines submerged.

The Crisis Consultative Forum hosted by the Government of Kenya's Crisis Response Centre in the Prime Minister's office met on 2 December 2009. The meeting, chaired by the MoSSP Permanent Secretary, and attended by UN, KRCS and NGOs took stock of what has been achieved since preparations commenced for the El Nino or enhanced rains in early October. The main areas of discussion were in relation to the recent cholera outbreak in East Pokot and the Mau forest evictions. It was agreed that an information task force (NDOC and OCHA, Crisis Response Centre and Ministry of Information) be formed to ensure effective communication on disasters.

The Ministry of State for Special Programmes (MoSSP) completed a profiling exercise of illegal settlers evicted from the Mau Forest during the first phase of the planned operations. According to the profiling exercise a total of 2,850 households and 20,345 people have left the forest. Food and assistance is being provided primarily through the Kenya Red Cross Society. The issue of compensation for those in the first phase (who do not have title deeds) has as yet not been finalized. The second phase of evictions for the people holding a title deed is scheduled to being in January 2010. An Inter- Agency team comprising OCHA, UNICEF and UNHCR visited the peripheral areas of the Mau forest on 19/20

November, where illegal squatters evicted from the forest are seeking refuge. The Kenya Red Cross Society has been providing support through distribution of NFIs. The Emergency Response Fund has funded some operations of the KRCS. The inter-agency mission was undertaken to look into the humanitarian situation, assess the response given and recommend common action for humanitarian actors. The Permanent Secretary for MoSSP also visited the area on 21/22 November where he held meetings with affected populations, informing them they still had access to their farms and that their livestock could continue grazing in the forest for a while longer. He encouraged the evictees to return to their villages of origin where assistance would be provided.

Discussions on the Harmonised Draft Constitution are progressing with members of public, the civil society and the government stating their positions on key areas they wish to see changed. Comments to the Harmonised Draft Constitution, released to the Public on 17 November for scrutiny for 30 days, have been tabled back to the Committee of Experts for inclusion before passing it on the Parliamentary Select Committee. The Grand Coalition Government has had major differences of where executive powers must rest. The referendum is expected to take place in April 2010. The last Kenyan constitutional referendum was held on 21 November 2005. The proposed new constitution was voted down by a 58% majority of Kenya's voters. The referendum divided Kenyans and spurred violence. Nine (9) people died during the campaign period spread over several months.

Three experts from the International Criminal Court at The Hague were on mission to Kenya to meet victims of the post election violence. The three were also tasked with assessing victims who qualify for compensation under a fund administered by the ICC. Part of the team's responsibility was to identify leaders of the affected communities who will make submissions on behalf of victims. The team was also to receive collective and individual representations and compile a report for submission to the court.

Humanitarian Financing

Humanitarian partners in Kenya, led by the UN Humanitarian Coordinator Aeneas Chuma, on 3rd December 2009 launched a humanitarian appeal totalling \$ 508, 466, 127 and targeting at 4 933,238 people, to address emergency needs wrought by drought, displacement and increasing urban vulnerabilities in Kenya. Among the key note speakers were retired Lieutenant General Daniel Opande who emphasized the need for strengthened peace, better security and reconciliation initiatives and stated that "Kenya is facing a fragile peace especially as the country moves towards 2012 elections". UNHABITAT Director for Regional Office for Africa and Arab States Dr.Alioune Badiane highlighted increased urban vulnerabilities and need for concrete preparedness to address potential disasters from conflict, overpopulation and its associated risks and stressed the imperative for Kenya to devise a land and property directorate alluding to land distribution issues the country faces. Other key note speakers included CARE Kenya Country Director Stephen Gwynne-Vaughan who briefed on conditions in overcrowded refugee camps stating "the conditions in camps are below internationally recognized standards for shelter, education, sanitation, and waste disposal". Save the Children's Catherine Fitzgibbon highlighted issues affecting the arid and semi-arid (ASALs) pastoral lands. Ms. Fitzgibbon said there is need to study how viable pastoralism is as a livelihood, and the need to engage the private sector to invest in pastoralism like any other profitable business.

The 2009 EHRP is funded at 70.1% receiving US\$ 406 million from the US\$ 508 million dollars as at 17 December 2009. Agriculture, Coordination, Education and Protection sectors remain poorly funded at under 40 % with the Agriculture sector receiving only 17 % of funds appealed for.

II. Humanitarian Situation

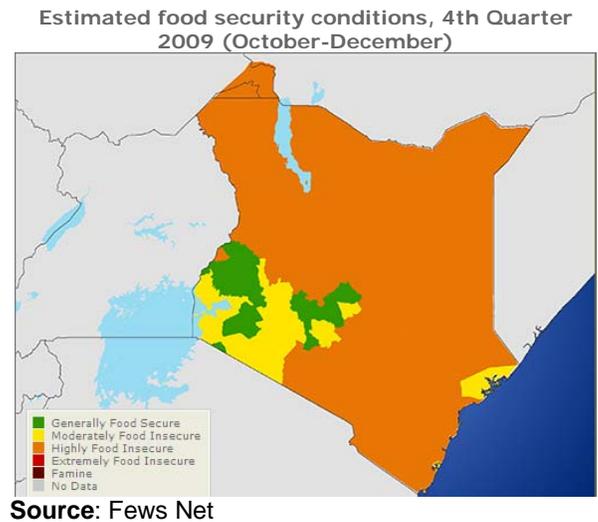
Food Security

WFP informed in early December that despite the planning figure for general food distribution of 3.8 million as per the Long Rains Assessment recommendations, the highest ever reached in any given month was 2.6 million people. The shortfall in reaching targeted beneficiary numbers is due to insufficient funds. Under the expanded School Feeding Programme, 422,000 children were reached and this number was

agreed upon with Ministry of Education. Supplementary feeding for moderately malnourished children <5 and pregnant/nursing women actual beneficiaries reached are 94,000, out of the 120,000 planning figure.

Meanwhile there are concerns food insecurity will increase after a long dry spell experienced during November.

Whilst rains were received at the onset on the short rains season in October and early November, some areas particularly in northwest Kenya, affected by drought wrought by four previous consecutive poor rain seasons, remained dry. Few's Net says the December 2009 short rains have been characterized by a lengthy dry spell in November in Critical areas of the country including drought-affected southeast and coastal marginal agricultural areas as well as in the northwestern pastoral areas.



Agriculture & Livestock

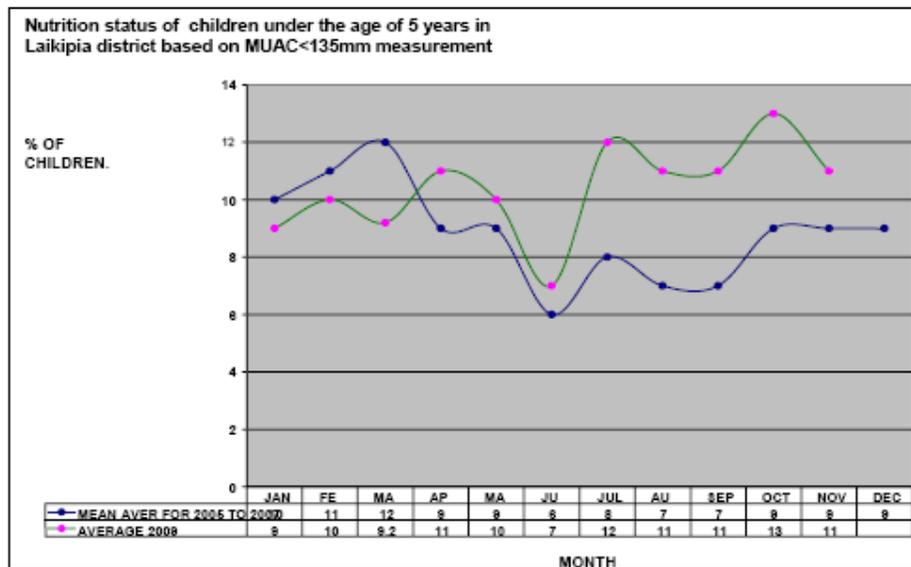
The short rains have provided much needed recharging of water sources and regeneration of pasture for livestock. Body conditions of livestock showed improvement and contributed to higher market prices for livestock in some areas. In Samburu, average cattle prices rose to Ksh6, 251 from Ksh4, 929 in October 2009. However, whilst improved livestock prices were noted they were undermined by high prices of essential food commodities, and hence there has been minimal impact on pastoralists' purchasing power and access to food. According to the ALRMP November Monthly Bulletin for Samburu, insecurity continued to destabilize the western and eastern borders of the district constraining utilization of forage resources and human settlement in the affected areas.

Nutrition

In November, UNICEF held discussions with 7 NGO partners to continue support and scale-up of nutrition interventions in 6 districts (Turkana, Pokot, Tana River, Marsabit, Kilifi, Kinango) as well as 3 urban poor areas (Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu). Implementation should start in December 2009/January 2010. World Vision is planning to scale-up in Laisamis as well as Baringo and East Pokot. Feed the Children is looking at potential support in Laikipia. ACF may potentially support in Isiolo. Since May 2009 the nutrition sector has scaled-up interventions from 11 districts to 21 districts. Coverage for management of severe acute malnutrition has increased from 24% in July 2009 to 31% in October 2009. About 9883 children affected by severe acute malnutrition have been admitted for treatment between January and September 2009. When compared to admissions in areas that had similar coverage and support last year (2008) there is already 27% increase between January and September. UNICEF says coverage gaps remain in Mbere, Meru North and Narok.

Five (5) districts -Turkana, Mandera, Wajir, Samburu, Marsabit- will benefit from blanket supplementary feeding funded by ECHO. WFP and its NGO partners working in those districts started implementation in December. The target populations are all children under 5 years old as well as pregnant and lactating women. The intervention package includes a supplementary food ration made of CSB and oil as well as screening for acute malnutrition, micronutrient supplementation, de-worming, immunization and health/nutrition education. This will not only address the immediate needs, but also be used to determine the relevance and appropriateness of blanket supplementary feeding during the seasonal hunger gap. A rigorous M&E is being put in place by SC-UK through funding from UNICEF.

Nutrition status of children showed a slight improvement in some districts, according to November Early Warning Bulletins by the ALRMP. In Laikipia, the nutrition status of children below five years improved slightly during the month, with the percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition dropping to 11% from 13% in October. The slight improvement was due to slight change in milk production but the percentage was still high compared to the past minimum rates of 9%. District authorities recommended for supplementary feeding, especially in Laikipia North. Food stress was evident as the EMOP did not distribute any food in October and November.



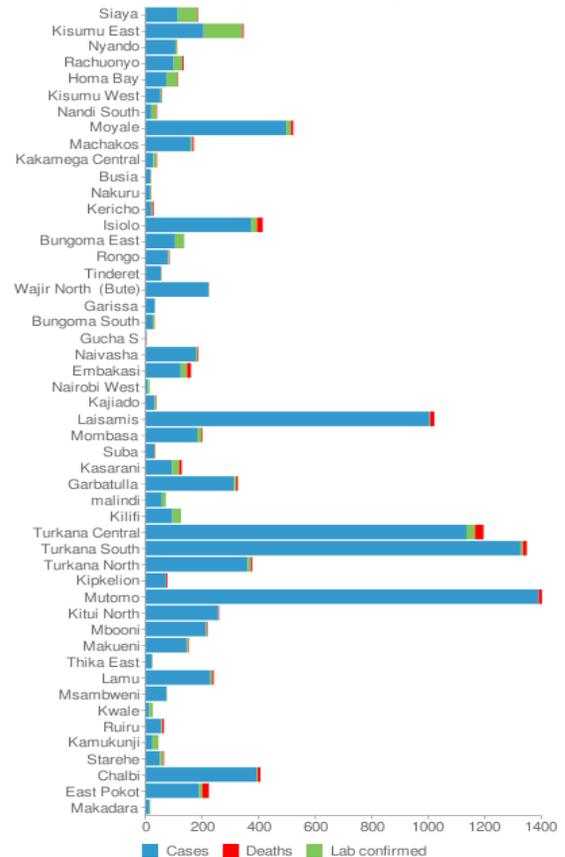
Source: ALRMP

Health

The Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation says the cholera outbreak continues to spread across the country. On 16 December, MPHS reported that the cholera outbreak has cumulatively affected 53 districts nationwide with a total of 14,874 cases, 261 deaths and a CFR of 2.0% since January 2009. Cholera outbreak has affected 16 Districts in the last one month with a total of 4902 cases 135 deaths and a CFR of 1.8%. Between 10 and 16 December new cases were reported in 11 districts: Turkana south, East Pokot, Turkana Central, Turkana North, Msambweni, Ruiru, Chalbi, Starehe, Lamu, Embakasi and Kericho.

East Pokot and Turkana East witnessed an unprecedented cholera outbreak between 23 November and 14 December affecting 205 people and leaving another 26 dead. Reports of admissions and deaths have declined. The affected areas are isolated, very difficult to reach and poor security in the area inhibits access. Pokot and Turkana have also been affected by drought and its consequences of water shortages that compromise hygiene practices. The lack of health facilities in affected areas also presents challenges to combat the disease outbreak.

Cholera Cases in Kenya for 2009 by District



Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

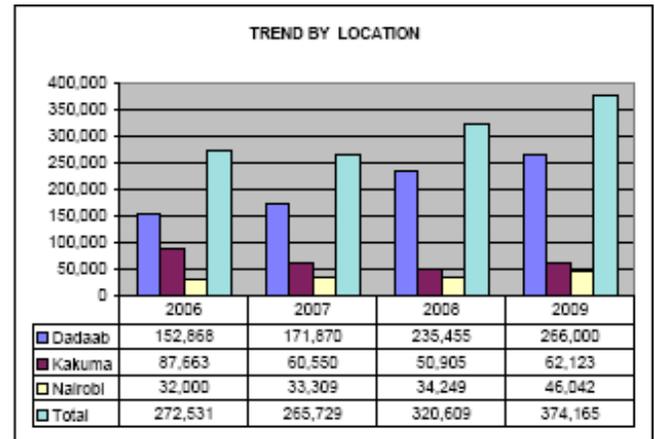
The Kenya Human Rights Commission prepared a report on the Internally Displaced Persons in Kenya mostly for period 2008-2009, but also capturing earlier displacements dating back to early 1990s. The report was done in conjunction with the IDP Network and is captured in the book entitled 'OUT IN THE COLD - The fate of Internally Displaced Persons in Kenya (2008-2009)'. Various speakers including the Deputy Executive Director and Programme Coordinator for KHRC, the National Chairperson for IDPs Network, UNHCR, The South Consultants and IDPs Expert and a representative from the Ministry of State for Special Programmes. In attendance were some IDPs from all over the country, UN agencies, local NGOs and CBOs.

Refugees

UNHCR reports that members of the Garissa County Council visited all camps in Dadaab in order to assess the level of encroachment and illegal construction inside the camps, and to hold meetings with members of both the refugee and host communities. They explained the correct procedure for the allocation or sale of land, and made it clear that any attempts by persons purporting to be local officials to sell land in the camps either to refugees or to members of the host community was not legal unless authorized by the Garissa County Council in a formal session.

According to UNHCR, Kenya hosts a total of 374,165 refugees of which 266,000 are hosted in Dadaab camps in Garissa. There are 62,123 refugees in Kakuma and 46,042 in Nairobi. Decongestion of parts of Kakuma camp is ongoing. UNHCR says that 2500 individuals (25% of the targeted population) are expected to be moved out of congested areas by 31 December 2009. As at 14 December, 616 individuals had already moved to a new site. Refugee camps, especially Dadaab, are overcrowded and accommodate almost three times the number of refugees they were initially built for. A similar decongestion exercise conducted in Dadaab saw the relocation of an estimated 13 000 refugees to Kakuma between August and October 2009, but the relocation has done little to reduce the stress on the crowded camps.

Refugees' inflows to Kenya between 2006 and 2009:-



Source: UNHCR

Peace Building

The Konrad Adenauer Foundation Programme has launched a peace training programme targeting youth that were embroiled in the 2007/2008 election chaos. The European Union has donated Sh120 million for the peace building and conflict resolution programme in the Rift Valley, Western Nyanza provinces. The programme aims to end inter-community conflict and rivalry in the regions. The youth will learn how to predict conflicts and stop them before they get out of control and will also be taught on how to conduct research on conflict trends. The project targets districts with different communities living at the border and towns hit by the violence last year. It is envisaged that community interactions increase across the ethnic divides among communities that have experienced violence. Among the volatile districts that have been chosen for the programme are Kisumu, Eldoret and Uasin Gishu .

The UNDP Peace Building and Conflict Prevention unit held a held day meeting on 2 December with the national government and civil society partners on conflict prevention in the country. The meeting audited the state of conflict prevention in Kenya by reviewing current strategies and frameworks; discussed the proposed new UN Country Team (UNCT) Strategic Framework for Peace building and Conflict Prevention; and presented the Civil Society Democratic Governance Facility (CSDGF).

The Kenya Humanitarian Forum, hosted by OCHA, took place on 4 December and focused its discussions on conflict in Kenya and mechanisms for peace building. UNDP presented its analysis on the Peace building and conflict resolution initiatives, and empathised the need for joined up approach on conflict prevention & resolution, livelihoods and integrating current disjointed policies in the country. A delegate of the Ministry of Youth and the two youth representatives from Pokot and Turkana presented the 'Tuelewane Project'. This a social, cultural and economic exchange project for youth between communities that are in conflict prone areas.

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